Delay in Naval projects

878. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to media report captioned "Navy hit by delay of big-ticket projects";

(b) if so, what are the reasons that a number of crucial projects worth over Rs. 15,000 crores by Indian Navy are running way behind schedule; and

(c) what are the details of various projects under the Navy which are running behind schedule and steps being taken by Government to complete these projects early?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The projects named in the media report are the stealth frigate project (P-17) and destroyer (P-15A) project with Mazagon Docks Ltd. (MDL), Mumbai. Both these projects are under execution to meet the delivery dates of 2008-2009 and 2010-2012 respectively as per the delivery schedules.

The construction of six Scorpene submarines at MDL slated for delivery between 2012—2017 is expected to be completed as per schedule.

The construction of Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) is progressing with the scheduled "launch" of the ship in 2010 at Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL). However, the final delivery of the ship may be delayed from the earlier likely delivery in 2012. Adequate funds are provided to CSL for the project. The project is reviewed at various levels for early completion.

The overall progress of repair and re-equipping of the ship, ex-Admiral Gorshkov, in Russia is slow. The Russian side has submitted a revised Master Schedule indicating a delay in the project. The Russian side has attributed the delays to "Growth of Work". Issues relating to the slow progress are taken up between the two countries at appropriate level.

Crash of trainee aircraft near Hyderabad

879. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA SEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trainee aircraft of the IAF crashed near Hyderabad in the early hours of 11th September, 2007;

(b) if so, the loss caused thereby to the IAF both in terms of its personnel and the aircraft; and

(c) whether any civilians were also killed in the accident and the loss of civil property if any, causes thereby and compensation paid by Government therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Besides the loss of the aircraft, two aircrew were also killed in the accident.

(c) No, Sir.

Organisational structure and staffing policy in BRO

880. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the organisational structure and staffing policy in Border Road Organisation (BRO);